

2024 SPECIAL SESSION I

INTRODUCED

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SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 678

Offered April 1, 2025

Commending Tyrell Omar Brown and Lissette Brown.

Patron—Hashmi

WHEREAS, for two decades, Tyrell Omar Brown and Lissette Brown have provided inspirational leadership to the Richmond community as the Bishop and First Lady of Morning Star Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Tyrell Brown previously held leadership roles at several churches in Maryland before joining Morning Star Baptist Church, a historic church that has served the Richmond community for more than 118 years; and

WHEREAS, during their tenure with Morning Star Baptist Church, Tyrell and Lissette Brown led numerous souls to Christ, helping the congregation to grow in both faith and number, and significantly expanded outreach ministries and programs; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Tyrell and Lissette Brown, Morning Star Baptist Church offered housing to retired military families, developed a weekly food pantry, created an employment ministry, sponsored youth spring and summer camps, and revamped the youth ministry and children's church programs; and

WHEREAS, Tyrell and Lissette Brown worked directly with Swansboro Elementary School to create a safe haven for students in case of a disaster, coordinated with officials at George Wythe High School's athletic department to provide meals after sports practices, and developed a special Sunday worship service for Virginia Union University athletic teams; and

WHEREAS, Tyrell and Lissette Brown have overseen a complete restoration of the church building, including a renovation of the fellowship hall, the replacement of the church roof, the opening of a church book store and a barbershop, and the installation of new carpets, gutters, security systems, computer systems, and a church marquee; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Tyrell and Lissette Brown continued to spread the gospel and stay engaged with the community through worship services held in the church parking lot; they have also reached audiences across the nation through the Tyrell's Tokens television ministry; and

WHEREAS, over the past 20 years, Tyrell and Lissette Brown have also been mentors for other pastors and first families in the community and churches in at least 10 other states; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his achievements and visionary leadership, Tyrell Brown was appointed as president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention Virginia Fellowship (PNBC-VF); and

WHEREAS, Tyrell Brown pioneered a historic milestone in the life of the PNBC-VF and the Baptist General Convention Virginia by planning to unite the conventions for the first-ever combined worship service for the Seven Last Words on Good Friday, April 18, 2025, at the PNBC-VF headquarters located at Morning Star Baptist Church; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate of Virginia, That Tyrell Omar Brown and Lissette Brown hereby be commended on the occasion of their 20th anniversary of service to the congregation of Morning Star Baptist Church; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Tyrell Omar Brown and Lissette Brown as an expression of the Senate of Virginia's admiration for their legacy of service to the residents of Richmond.

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